



Flathead High Student Presented with Amelia Earhart Award

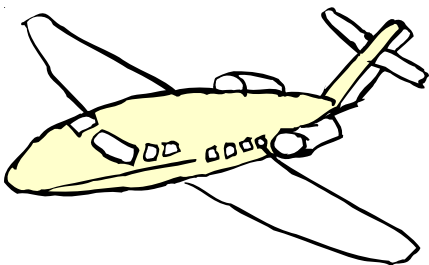
Caleb Sackett was recently awarded The Amelia Earhart Award during a special ceremony held in Kalispell. Caleb is a 17-year-old Junior at Flathead High School where he participates in the Symphonic Band, Pep Band, Jazz Band and the track team. He is the Cadet Commander of the Civil Air Patrol Flathead Composite Squadron and the Chairman of the C.A.P. Montana Wing Cadet Advisory Committee. Caleb's goal is to get an appointment to the Air Force Academy or he would like to go to college and participate in the Air Force R.O.T.C. program. He plans on majoring in Aerospace Engineering.

The Amelia Earhart Award comes with the rank of Captain. The second milestone of the cadet program, The Amelia Earhart Award is earned after the receipt of the General Billy Mitchell award, and the completion of the first 11 achievements of the cadet program. In addition, the cadet must pass a comprehensive examination covering aerospace topics, leadership theory and staff duties. To highlight the significance of this accomplishment just over 13,700 cadets have earned this award since its inception in 1964.

Congratulations to one of Montana's future aviators. Good luck with your endeavors and pursuit with the United States Air Force Academy.



MDT Director Jim Lynch presents Caleb with the distinguished Amelia Earhart Award.



Montana is very fortunate to have many generous individuals and organizations that believe in promoting aviation by offering monetary assistance to qualified individuals. The MDT Aeronautics Division collects the letters of application and forwards them on to the specific sponsor to select a winner. The scholarships are offered to a Montanan to help defray costs of education (i.e., flight instruction, A&P, etc.) and will be presented during the 2007 Montana Aviation Conference in Missoula. See page 6 of the newsletter for complete scholarship information.

Administrator's Column

United Express to make direct Chicago flight permanent: A summer of daily direct flights between Gallatin Field Airport and O'Hare Airport in Chicago worked so well that United Express has decided to run the flight on a year-round basis. United Express originally planned the daily flights from June to September. Beginning February 14 the airlines will partner with Sky West to continue the flights indefinitely. The flights tentatively are scheduled to depart Gallatin Field at 12:45 p.m. and arrive in Chicago at 4:27 p.m. The return flight will leave at 10 a.m. and arrive just before noon. Ted Mathis, Airport Director, commented that, "It's a great benefit to have service to Chicago, a major international hub."

To merge or not to merge: There has been a lot of airline merger rumors in the past few months but not a lot of action. Will US Airways prevail in its effort to capture Delta? In December, Delta filed its independent turn-around plan, which it hopes will convince creditors to pass on the merger proposal. Will AirTran buy Midwest? Midwest is paying no attention to AirTran, saying they are not interested, which could potentially drive AirTran to increase its bid to buy out shareholders. Will United merge with Continental? They've been talking. And will American or Northwest be involved in any consolidation activity? It appears that Northwest is close to exiting bankruptcy. The long history of failed airline mergers and opposition among unions, suppliers, governments and airline executives suggest the talk of a big year for mergers could be just that.....TALK.

New AOPA Airport Watch Signs: AOPA is mailing new Airport Watch signs to nearly 5,300 public use airports across the county. The push is to remind pilots to "lock up and look out." The signs encourage pilots to report suspicious activity through (866) GA-SECUR[E], a toll free hotline answered by the Transportation Security Administration. If new signs are received, please display at the prominent entry points at your airport.

FAA proposal: It has been reported that the FAA has sent its revised reauthorization proposal to the Office of Management and Budget. Sources say that it contains hefty new user fees for general aviation, a tripling of the current jet fuel and avgas tax, new fees for operating in airspace near hubs, peak hour pricing and a number of new or increased fees for licensing, certification and a host of other FAA activities. We will get the first official look in February. Stay tuned.

Polar First: Helicopter pilots Jennifer Murray and Colin Bodill are now making their way around the world via the North and South poles on a record attempt. Flying a red Bell 407, the expedition is expected to take about 175 days, covering more than 36,000 nautical miles and making more than 120 stopovers in 32 countries. The pair left Fort Worth, Texas on December 5 with a planned return date of May 23. This is the second and final time the pilots are attempting a record. They crashed on their first attempt in October 2003 in whiteout conditions just after reaching the South Pole. Both pilots sustained serious injuries. As of this writing, they are currently in the South Pole. Follow along with the expedition on the web at: <http://www.polarfirst.com/>

Age 60 Rule to be visited again: The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) implemented a resolution last month allowing pilots to fly to age 65. The resolution increases the upper age limit to 65, provided that one of the pilots in the cockpit is under age 60. Medical experts and FAA personnel will be joined by representative from airlines and pilot unions in the Age 60 Aviation Rulemaking Committee to examine whether the United States should follow suit.



Montana and the Sky

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Upcoming EVENTS



January 19-21 – Surratt Memorial Winter Survival Clinic, Helena. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506.

January 21 - Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House – tours, flights, and questions answered for prospective students and parents. Call (406) 657-1060 for more information.

January 22-23 – AMAA Convention, Heritage Inn, Great Falls. For further information, phone Boyd Morgan at (406) 388-4497.

January 30 – Aeronautics Board meeting. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506 or go to www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/.

February 16-17 – Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic, Helena. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506.

February 18 - Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House – tours, flights, and questions answered for prospective students and parents. Call (406) 657-1060 for more information.

March 1-3 – Montana Aviation Conference, Hilton Inn, Missoula. For further information, phone (406) 444-2506 or go to www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/.

March 18 - Rocky Mountain College Aviation Program Open House – tours, flights, and questions answered for prospective students and parents. Call (406) 657-1060 for more information.

May 24 – Aviation Maintenance Technician Day.

June 17 – Father's Day Fly In breakfast, Fort Peck Airport. For further information, phone Lanny Hanson at (406) 263-1154.

**To most people, the sky is the limit.
To those who love aviation, the sky is home.**

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696. MDT produces 2,700 copies of this public document at an estimated cost of 39 cents each, for a total cost of \$1,053. This includes \$700 for postage.

Flight Instructor Clinic to be held in Helena

MDT Aeronautics Division will conduct the annual Flight Instructor Refresher Clinic (FIRC) at the Wingate Inn in Helena on February 16 -17. If you are a flight instructor who would like to attend this year's FIRC and have not received an application there are still openings. Please call the Aeronautics Division for information.

Leading the refresher clinic will be Greg Gorak of Gaits Aviation Seminars. Gaits Aviation Seminars will celebrate its 30th year of conducting FAA approved flight instructor refresher clinics this year. In that time, more than 15,000 flight instructors have completed the seminars.

Greg was the 1975 National Flight Instructor of the Year and an eight year Master Flight Instructor with the National Association of Flight Instructors (NAFI). He has served as an expert witness in aviation litigation.

The 16-hour FAA approved FIRC doesn't take all weekend. FIRC starts at 4 p.m. on Friday and runs with very brief breaks to 10 p.m. (eat an early supper). It starts again on Saturday at 7 a.m., breaks for a quick lunch, and winds up at 5 p.m. with a short graduation ceremony. In order for CIF's to recertify, the course has to be approved by the FAA, so the topics are specified and cover everything from how to teach effectively, through human factors, practical test standards, flight safety, weather, current issues, advanced training, FARs and instructor professionalism.

Montana Aviation Conference

March 1-3 – Missoula

Hilton Garden Inn – (406) 532-5300

Mail Registration Form & Payment to:
 MDT Aeronautics Division - Attn: Patty Kautz
 PO Box 200507 - Helena, MT 59620-0507
 Phone (406) 444-2506 – Fax (406) 444-2519
 Email: pkautz@mt.gov

Save time: register online for the Conference at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/

Names of Participant(s) (for badges): _____

Aviation Organization Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Register Early and SAVE!

EARLY REGISTRATION: BY FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Takeoff to Landing Package	_____ @ \$120/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & all meals)	_____ @ \$230/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____

-OR- Registration Fee	_____ @ \$60/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & <u>free</u> meals – see note below)	_____ @ \$115/FAMILY	\$ _____

Thursday Luncheon	_____ @ \$18/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	_____ @ \$18/EACH	\$ _____
**Friday Dinner/Dance	_____ @ FREE	\$ _____
**Saturday Luncheon	_____ @ FREE	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	_____ @ \$28	\$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

GENERAL REGISTRATION: AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 2007

Takeoff to Landing Package	_____ @ \$130/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & all meals)	_____ @ \$250/PERSON/SPOUSE	\$ _____

-OR- Registration Fee	_____ @ \$70/PERSON	\$ _____
(includes registration & <u>free</u> meals – see note below)	_____ @ \$135/FAMILY	\$ _____

Thursday Luncheon	_____ @ \$18/EACH	\$ _____
Friday Luncheon	_____ @ \$18/EACH	\$ _____
**Friday Dinner/Dance	_____ @ FREE	\$ _____
**Saturday Luncheon	_____ @ FREE	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	_____ @ \$28	\$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____

****PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WILL ATTEND THE FREE FRIDAY DINNER/DANCE AND FREE SATURDAY LUNCHEON WITH NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED. PERSON/SPOUSE AND FAMILY RATE INCLUDES 2 DINNER/DANCE AND 2 SATURDAY LUNCH TICKETS – ADDITIONAL TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED - \$25.00 DINNER/DANCE AND \$18.00 SATURDAY LUNCHEON. TO ASSURE ADEQUATE MEAL COUNT IF NO INDICATION IS MADE AS TO NUMBER OF TICKETS REQUIRED NO TICKETS WILL BE RESERVED.**

Refund Policy: Full refunds for cancellations will be given until February 1, 2007. From February 1 through February 23, the registration fee less \$50 will be refunded. **After February 23**, no refunds will be given. If you cannot attend, you may transfer your registration to another person in the same registration category.

Airway Beacon Towers Receive Safety Updates



As most pilots in the state already know, the MDT Aeronautics Division maintains the last segment of the original Airway Beacon system that helped guide many pilots from coast to coast during night VFR flights. The system was originally installed in the 1920's and 1930's for airmail service.

Back then things like tower safety were not even thought of let alone practiced. The division has been maintaining the towers in the state since the Federal Aviation Administration started turning the Airway Beacons over to states in the 1960's with no safety concerns. But alas time, rules and regulations have caught up with us.

The division is currently in the process of retrofitting all 17 airway beacon towers and three airport towers with safety cables. The cables are for safety harness that will be worn by maintenance personnel and will allow them to climb the tower ladder and still be attached to the ladder 100 percent of the time. This system will greatly enhance the safety of maintaining these historical beacons.

Plan to Attend the 23rd Annual Montana Aviation Conference

If you haven't already done so, it's time to make plans to attend the 2007 Montana Aviation Conference. The conference is being held March 1-3 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula.

The conference committee has been busy putting together an excellent three-day program. Conference sponsors include Experimental Aircraft Association, Montana Antique Aircraft Association, Montana Airport Managers Association, Montana Aviation Trades Association, Montana Pilots Association and Montana Seaplane Pilots Association.

The exhibit area will include more than 45 aviation companies displaying the latest and greatest in aviation products and services. These companies and others donate thousands of dollars in door prizes to be given away during the conference.

Thursday's kick-off luncheon speaker is John Kounis. John is the editor of *Pilot Getaways*, a magazine that covers fun places to fly for private pilots. Since co-founding the magazine in 1998, he has been flying 400 hours per year criss-crossing the country in his Cessna 185 to research fun and exciting destinations. The magazine covers everything from short backcountry strips to major metropolitan areas, but John prefers the backcountry for fun. Before starting the magazine, he spent eight years in Germany, where he flew a Cessna 172RG more than 1,200 hours in over 40 countries. His flights were as far south as Zimbabwe and Botswana and as far north as Norway and the arctic island of Spitzbergen, across from the northern tip of Greenland. Tickets for this luncheon must be reserved through preregistration.

Concurrent session speakers will present a wide variety of topics during the three days making this event something you won't want to miss. Educators from around Montana will gather Thursday for a three-day teacher workshop session.

A registration form is included on page 4 of the newsletter or register and pay online at www.mdt.mt.gov/aviation/.

Rooms have been blocked at the Hilton Garden Inn. Please call (406) 532-5300 to make reservations. Rooms have also been blocked at the following hotels within walking distance: Comfort Inn, (406) 542-0888; Courtyard by Marriott, (406) 549-5260; Hampton Inn, (406) 549-1800; Super 8, (406) 549-1199. When making reservations reference MT Aviation Conference. Reserve your room today. Room blocks are only available until January 28.

For further information on this great Montana aviation event, phone Patty Kautz at (406) 444-2506 or email pkautz@mt.gov.

Last Call for Scholarship Applications

Awarding of the scholarships will be based on a letter explaining the reasons for applying, future career goals, past aviation experience, if any, and any outstanding achievements. **The same letter can be submitted but applicant must submit one copy addressed to each individual scholarship they are applying for.** Letters of application should be sent to Montana Aeronautics Division, PO Box 200507, Helena, MT 59620-0507 or call (406) 444-2506 for further information. **Letters must be postmarked on or before January 26, 2007.**

Harold Hamm Scholarship – Harold and Zola Hamm were the anonymous donors that established the first \$250 A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship in 1993. With the passing of Harold on September 1, 2006, Zola decided to rename the scholarship the “Harold Hamm Scholarship” in honor of her husband of 19 years. Harold had an extremely strong passion for aviation. Together he and Zola completed two airplane projects: the restoration of a J-3 Piper Cub, and just this summer they finished building an experimental RV-6 aircraft.

A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship – An anonymous donor established this scholarship of \$250 in 1997.

Morrison Aviation Appreciation Scholarship – Jeff Morrison, retired former owner of Morrison Flying Service in Helena has established the \$500 scholarship as a token of appreciation to the aviation community.

Montana Antique Aircraft Association (MAAA) Scholarship – MAAA offers this \$500 scholarship to help defray the costs of flight instruction.

AOM Flight Training Scholarship – AOM has established this \$500 scholarship to financially assist a student pilot in obtaining their private pilot certificate.

Parrott Family Scholarship – The Parrott Family offers this \$1,000 scholarship to be used over a one-year period for pilot training programs for students enrolled in the Rocky Mountain College (RMC) aviation program. The funds may be used for tuition in the RMC aviation program, and/or flight training expenses leading to a Private, Commercial, or Flight Instructor Certificate, and may include Instrument and Multiengine simulator training, and the purchase of aviation related materials and related supplies.

Montana Pilots Association Junior Pilot Award – This recipient is chosen for outstanding interest in aviation, citizenship within their community and demonstrated academic achievement. The recipient must have soloed and be actively involved in flight training. This is a \$500 scholarship.

Montana Pilots Association Flight Training Award - This scholarship is open to a person who has a considerable interest in aviation. The \$500 scholarship is to be used for flight training.

Blue Goose First Generation Flight Scholarship – This \$250 scholarship is awarded to a first generation pilot to assist with flight training. This scholarship is designed to assist a person who has a love of aviation, yet had limited exposure to aviation, someone from a non-aviation background/family.

Mechanics Seminar and IA Renewal Offered During Aviation Conference

The MDT Aeronautics Division is pleased to announce the 2007 Mechanics Seminar and IA renewal will once again be held in conjunction with the annual Montana Aviation conference in Missoula. The dates for the conference are March 1-3. The Mechanics Seminar will start on Friday, March 2 and continue through Saturday, March 3.

Six hours of training on Friday will be offered and eight hours of training will be offered on Saturday. This works well for those mechanics only wanting to attend on Saturday, but still need training to update their IA for renewal.

Tentative Speakers include, Teledyne Continental Motors, Loren Lemen; Colorado Classic Aircraft, Carol Leyner; Engine Components Inc., Tim Morland; American Bonanza Society, Neil Pobanz; Norwest Propeller, Dick Jacob; Champion Aviation Products, Dick Johnson; Hoffman Pilots Center, Fred Workley; Landmark Aviation, Garrett Engines, Ray Hartley; Helena FSDO.

Mechanics attending this year's seminar will be required to register for the Aviation Conference. The registration fee will be \$60 for those who register by February 1. After February 1, the registration fee will be \$70. Registration includes all concurrent sessions, morning and afternoon coffee breaks with snacks, Friday night dinner and Saturday luncheon. If only attending the 8 hour Saturday session, a \$20 day pass is available. See the registration form on page 4 of the newsletter. Make plans now to attend, to discuss and learn the latest in aircraft maintenance.

Civil Air Patrol Event Honors Montana Veterans

Active duty and retired members of all branches of the armed forces joined with members the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) to honor Treasure State veterans last month in Helena.

The “Wreaths Across America” ceremony was held at the Montana Veterans Cemetery adjacent to Fort Harrison. It is one of dozens of similar ceremonies held across the nation in honor of veterans and active duty military members.

A military color guard opened the morning ceremony, held outdoors under a cold, gray December sky. Following a moment of silence, Montana Wing Commander Col. Robert Hoffman of Helena reminded the audience that, “Lying here before us in cemeteries throughout this nation are men and women who gave their lives so that we can live in freedom without fear.”

Resplendent in their dress uniforms, retired members of the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard one by one laid ceremonial wreaths beneath the seals of their respective services. A sixth wreath was laid at the base of the flag pole flying the flag honoring Prisoners of War and the Missing in Action.



Students from the Four Georgians Elementary School in Helena laid one final wreath honoring veterans of all services.

Maj. Gen. Randall Mosley, Adjutant General for the State of Montana, was the keynote speaker. General Mosely paid honor to those who gave their lives in service to their country and reminded the small crowd on hand of those on duty far away from home this holiday season.

This ceremony was the first of its kind in Montana. The idea, which began in 1992 at Arlington National Cemetery, has now spread nationwide, thanks to the Civil Air Patrol.

The Civil Air Patrol is celebrating its 65th anniversary this month. It was founded just a week before the attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War II. Sixty-four volunteers died while carrying out CAP missions including submarine and border patrol during the war.

The 57,000 members of the Civil Air Patrol continue that proud wartime tradition as the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

Here in the Treasure State, the 250 officers and cadets of the Montana Wing perform search and rescue, homeland security, disaster relief and counter drug missions at the request of government or law enforcement agencies.

Those raccoons are not luggage

As migration approached, two elderly vultures doubted they could make the trip south, so they decided to go by airplane.

When they checked their baggage, the attendant noticed that they were carrying two dead raccoons. “Do you wish to check the raccoons through as luggage?” she asked.

”No, thanks,” replied the vultures. “They’re carrion.”



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